

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-04 /057 W

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O R 051116Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 929

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4764

CINCLANT AND EUCOM FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PO

SUBJ: MRPP MILITANTS STORM HEADQUARTERS CDS, CAUSE EXTENSIVE
DAMAGE

SUMMARY: MRPP SACK CDS HEADQUARTERS, CAUSE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE.
PRIME MINISTER TO SEE CDS LEADERS AT NOON LOCAL, AT WHICH TIME
CDS WILL ASK AMONG OTHER THINGS WHY COPCON FORCES FAILED TO
PROVIDE PROTECTION REPEATEDLY REQUESTED BY PARTY. END SUMMARY.
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1. A LARGE GROWD OF MRPP MILITANTS, ESTIMATED BY OBSERVERS AT OVER 500, STORMED LISBON HEADQUARTERS OF THE MODERATE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CDS 2100 EVENING NOVEMBER 4 AFTER FIRST ATTEMPTING UN-SUCCESSFULLY TO DISRUPT NEARBY INDOOR RALLY OF CDS YOUTH GROUP. STRONG METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCES GUARDING RALLY KEPT MRPP MILITANTS FROM ENTERING SAN LUIS THEATER, SITE OF RALLY WHICH ATTENDED BY 1000 CDS SUPPORTERS. NUMEROUS INJURIES RESULTED IN AREA AROUND THEATER AS MRPP TRIED STORM POLICE LINES.

2. MAOIST GROUP THEN SET OFF FOR CDS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS WHICH A DOZEN BLOCKS AWAY. APPROXIMATELY 40 STAFF MEMBERS OF CDS IN BUILDING WHEN MRPP ARRIVED. DESPITE REPEATED CALLS BY CDS SECRETARY GENERAL ADELINO AMARO DA COSTA (WHO AMONG THOSE INSIDE BUILDING AT TIME) ONLY ONE POLICE CAR STATIONED OUTSIDE HEADQUARTERS. TWO POLICEMEN ALSO INSIDE HEADQUARTERS. ON ARRIVAL OF CROWD POLICE CAR FLED. CROWD UPENDED CONCRETE ENCASED STREET SIGNS WHICH THEY USED TO BATTER DOWN MAIN DOOR TO HEADQUARTERS, MEANWHILE HAVING DESTROYED ALL WINDOWS IN BUILDING AS WELL AS NEARBY CARS. ON ENTERING BUILDING, CROWN RAMPAGED ABOUT DESTROYING OFFICE EQUIPMENT. TWO POLICEMEN INSIDE FIRED TWO WARNING SHOTS AND FLED, LEAVING HEADQUARTERS UNGUARDED WHILE CROWN PILLAGED AT WILL. ACCORDING TO AMARO DA COSTA, WHO ALONG WITH STAFF MANAGED TO ESCAPE INTO NEARBY BUILDING ALONG WINDOW LEDGES, TELEVISION SETS AND CHECK FOR 500,000 ESCUDOS STOLEN. CDS FILES AND EXPENSIVE OFFSET PRINTING EQUIPMENT ESCAPED DAMAGE, HOWEVER.

3. ARMY UNITS DID NOT ARRIVE AT HEADQUARTERS CDS FOR ONE HALF HOUR AFTER IT BROKEN INTO BY CROWD. BY THAT TIME DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE. COPCON FORCES ACCORDING TO EYE WITNESSES SEEN LOADING OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND TELEVISION SET INTO ARMY VEHICLES. CDS CLAIMS TO HAVE TWO LOCAL CDS GUARDS WHO CAN TESTIFY TO ABOVE. (IT POSSIBLE EQUIPMENT TAKEN INTO "PROTECTIVE CUSTODY" BY ARMY, BUT THIS NOT CERTAIN.)

4. IN TURMOIL DURING EVENING SOME 40 PERSONS INJURED, ABOUT HALF OF THEM POLICE. DAMAGE IN CHIADO AREA WHERE THEATER LOCATED EXTENSIVE. NO DEATHS REPORTED, THREE OF THOSE INJURED REPORTEDLY BY GUNFIRE. MIRACULOUSLY NO CDS MEMBERS HURT IN MELEE.

5. AFTER HEADQUARTERS RANSACKED, CDS PHONED PRIME MINISTER WHO
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HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THREE MEMBERS OF PARTY AT NOON LOCAL NOV 5. AT THAT TIME CDS PLANS TO REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT PAY FOR DAMAGES, THAT IT ISSUE PUBLIC CONDEMNATORY STATEMENT, AND THAT IT ALLOW CDS FIVE MINUTES OF PRIME TELEVISION TIME TO PRESENT TO PUBLIC ITS SIDE OF EVENTS. CDS WILL DEMAND GOVERNMENT ABIDE BY NEW LAW ON POLITICAL PARTIES OUTLAWING PARTIES AND GROUPS ADVOCATING VIOLENCE, AND BAN MRPP.

6. MOST DISTURBING ASPECT OF WHOLE INCIDENT IS FAILURE OF COPCON FORCES TO PROVIDE REQUESTED PROTECTION FOR CDS. TWO CDS MEMBERS SPOKE PERSONALLY TO OPERATIONAL COMMANDER OF COPCON, BRIG. OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, IN AFTERNOON BEFORE RALLY TO REQUEST COPCON PROTECTION IN VIEW OF FACT THAT MRPP HAD CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT CITY PAMPHLETS URGING BOYCOTT OF CDS RALLY, WHICH IT TERMED FASCIST ATTEMPT AT COUNTERATTACK AGAINST PEOPLE. MRPP CALLED ON ITS MILITANTS TO CLOSE RANKS AND DESTROY "FASCISTS," WHICH WAS CLEAR SIGNAL OF THEIR INTENT TO CLASH WITH CDS. DESPITE DANGER OF STREET VIOLENCE, NO COPCON PROTECTION FORTHCOMING UNTIL DAMAGE DONE, WHICH WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE EXPLANATION FROM OTELO CARVALHO.

7. CDS LEADERS PROMISE TO CONTACT EMBOFFS AFTER MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER TO INFORM US OF HIS RESPONSE TO THIS EPISODE. MORNING NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE FACTUAL COVERAGE TO INCIDENTS, BUT HAVE MADE NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. CDS CLAIMS THAT LOCAL TELEVISION HAS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF LAST NIGHT'S INCIDENTS, BUT POINTS OUT THAT NO MENTION OF CLASH REPORTED ON LAST EDITION OF TELEJOURNAL NEWS PROGRAM. THEY EXPECT WIDESPREAD PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF MRPP AND OF STREET VIOLENCE AS RESULT OF INCIDENTS, AND LIKEWISE EXPECTED PROBLEMS TO ARISE WITHIN MILITARY AT FAILURE OF COPCON TO DEFEND PEACEFUL, ALBEIT CONSERVATIVE PARTY.
SCOTT

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